MATWATCH

213 Pine Hills Ave. Auburn Al 36830

VOL. 2, NO. 42 APRIL 16-22

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

HOGAN DEFEATS HANSEN ON WWF/JAPAN CARD

TOKYO---Hulk Hogan defeated Stan Hansen in the main event of a WWF/All Japan/New Japan show Friday night. The show drew an announced 53,742 but paid attendance was estimated at 42,000.

Genichiro Tenryu pinned Randy Savage in a supporting event and Ultimate Warrior defeated Ted DiBiase in a WWF title match which reports are did not draw huge popularity from Japanese fans.

Reports say a number of the $280 seats were likely comps for U.S. servicemen.

TBS/WGN SERIES TO BEGIN JUNE 25

CHICAGO----After several scheduling delays, WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING'S Chicago-based weekly hour begins on WGN June 25.

The yet-untitled hour, probably to be hosted by Tony Schiavone, will air at 10 a.m. (CDT).

The WGN deal gives WCW an additional 33-million homes on cable. The series will be tailored exclusively for WGN to avoid syndication restrictions.

CORNETTE, MIDNIGHTS, STEINER AGREE TO PACTS

ATLANTA---Though not all agreements were formally signed at midweek, WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING has come to terms for new deals with Jim Cornette, Bobby Eaton, Stan Lane and Scott Steiner.

Financial terms were not disclosed, though insiders say WCW has attempted to negotiate $2,000-a-week deals. The contracts are for one year each.

Canadian star Owen Hart also visited the WCW office last week but cannot commit until finishing a schedule with international promoter Otto Wanz in summer.

Chris Walks Out on WWW

CRUISE, FUNK AXED AFTER BLACK MONDAY; BARRY BACK

GREENWOOD, MS----WORLD WIDE WRESTLING co-hosts Chris Cruise and Terry Funk have been fired from World Championship Wrestling, Inc., after an internal dispute at the April 9 WWW TV taping which saw Funk no-show and Cruise refuse to work with substitute Kevin Sullivan.

In an unrelated issue, former U.S. champion Barry Windham was rehired last week for a May 1 start (see box below and Steve Beverly's column, Page 2).

Funk was to have been informed by mail of his termination and Cruise was told Thursday by WCW executive vice president Jim Herd the Maine resident's dismissal would not be reconsidered. The bizarre turn climaxed an explosion on Tony Schiavone's first day as executive producer of WCW syndication after a year with Titan Sports. Schiavone, slated to replace Cruise as WWW emcee this week, appointed Sullivan to co-host with Cruise when Funk did not appear.

Cruise, who'd replaced the fired Tony Gilliam (who has since been rehired) as road ring announcer, has been under intense heat with wrestlers since a December Atlanta newspaper story quoted him comparing wrestling to movies and challenging why wrestling should have to issue disclaimers as to its fictional content when films do not. Other wrestlers have accused Cruise of being a direct leak to wrestling newsletters and he was chastised by one WCW executive for bringing a "sheet" into an arena dressing room. MATWATCH has been told the bulletin was PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY. Cruise would not comment to MATWATCH on the situation but according to other accounts from Greenwood, Sullivan had been "ragging" Cruise for weeks and continued it last Monday before several NWA players. The crowning blow, apparently, was when Sullivan, a WCW booking committee member, was discussing an angle for the taping and was said to have told Cruise not to tell Dave Meltzer and this publication about it "for at least a week." As accounts follow, when Funk did not appear by mid-afternoon, Sullivan was tapped to sub on WWW. When Cruise was told, he refused to go on.

According to Herd, "Schiavone called me in Atlanta and I told him to go on himself and I'd handle it the next day." In a meeting with Herd and Jim Barnett Tuesday, Cruise "apologized for what happened but I told him it was a little late for that," said Herd. "There's two sides to every story but, not to use a show business cliche, the show must go on and you just don't walk out on it." Thursday, Cruise was informed his dismissal would not be reconsidered. Inside reports have him inquiring about an opening in the World Wrestling Federation.

As for Funk, the situation had been festering for weeks. Funk, usually an optimist in the WCW ranks, had grown increasingly sullen, feeling his input was being ignored on the booking panel and disgruntled with the treatment of Cruise

(Continued on Next Page)

BARRY'S DEAL TO INCLUDE INCENTIVES

ATLANTA---Barry Windham's return to the NWA after a year away requires, according to sources, his repayment of a $25,000 signing bonus he received before bolting to the WWF last spring.

Windham reportedly has incentive clauses similar to major league baseball players and would be paid a performance bonus at the end of the deal if he fulfills his obligations.

For more on the Windham deal, see Steve Beverly's column on Page 2.

CRUISE, FUNK AXED AFTER BLACK MONDAY

(Continued from Page 1)

and Funk's own removal as exec producer of WORLD WIDE and NWA PRO, a role he felt WCW never seriously acknowledged.

As MATWATCH has been told, when Funk arrived in Jackson MS Monday, he learned the FUNK'S GRILL segment had been dropped from rundown sheets, something MATWATCH has been told was an "inadvertent error." Apparently miffed, Funk made his own decision not to proceed to Greenwood.

A number of WCW personnel tried for two days to contact Funk to no avail. "I'm very surprised Terry didn't call me if he wasn't going to go. Our relationship has been such that if he ever had a problem, he's always picked up the phone," Herd told MATWATCH, "but we've told Terry even if he still doesn't do WORLD WIDE, he'll do FUNK'S GRILL, he'll still be on the booking committee and do a number of other things for us." Friends finally reached Funk Thursday, reported he was fine but said he was hurt over his treatment.

"You have to understand," one anonymous insider told MATWATCH, "Terry has a lot of pride. He literally, literally broke his back for this company last summer, got himself in excellent shape and worked his heart out in that run with Ric Flair. It's hard for him to feel the company doesn't appreciate any of that with the way he's been handled." Others have speculated WCW has been seeking to eliminate Funk's six-figure salary. Herd denied that to us two weeks ago.

Schiavone, Jim Ross, Herd and Barnett were expected to meet at week's end to settle on a new alignment of announcers for the TBS and syndicated shows with Schiavone taking over WWW and Lance Russell continuing on NWA PRO but color roles yet to be determined.

To Jackson TN

MATWATCH IS MOVING

We're moving.

Well, not yet, but soon. Our mail will still go to the current address until we establish a new post office box in mid-May. But I've accepted a job as news director at WBBJ-TV in Jackson TN, effective May 7, so MATWATCH is going along.

The challenge of a return to television news was no overnight decision but we feel it is the best move for us at the current time. In addition, we'll be only 80 miles from those live CWA TV shows in Memphis, as long as they last.

During May, we may be forced into a one or two-issue hiatus in order to give us time to get settled. And a few weeks between May and June, we may find it necessary to substitute the detailed TV results and LINES OF THE WEEK with other TV-related news. I'll be commuting virtually every weekend between Auburn and Jackson until mid-June and there simply won't be time to watch all the shows.

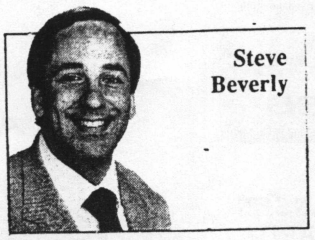
But I assure you, we will endeavor to keep you well-informed even during this interim period. No one will be charged for an issue during a week we do not publish, your subscription expirations will simply extend a week.

We ask your patience as we embark on a personal transition period and those of you in Tennessee who are MATWATCHers, I hope we can have a few get-togethers. Nothing would please me more than to associate some new faces with your familiar names. We'll keep you posted on our moving details.

BARRY'S HOME BUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE???

Almost one year to the date of his firing for alleged breach of contract, Barry Windham is back home in the NWA, agreeing to terms last Wednesday.

Initial word is he'll become a Horseman again, which is okay except I wish we wouldn't keep being dosed a reformatted old act which ought to go the way of most McLean Stevenson TV series.



Steve Beverly

When Windham was axed last year, he had taken a $25,000 signing bonus for a new contract inked shortly after his final NWA outing at CHI-TOWN RUMBLE. But Barry jumped into a double stew with the company, 1) for allegedly failing to have surgery reportedly needed on an ailing hand and for making, according to insiders, a "serious play for the book." As reported on page one, Barry will repay the bonus but receive incentives if he fulfills several contractual conditions.

On the surface, hardcore fans will love this as many have clamored for Barry's return. He adds major depth sorely needed when WCW has been roasted for floundering. With Anderson soon back, Flair, the young but improving Mark Callous, Cactus Jack and Bam Bam Bigelow, WCW will have a heckuva heel line, not to mention the returning Sid Vicious and Sting this summer on the babyface side to join Lex Luger, the Steiners and Brian Pillman.

However, I must preface a question with a line the soft-spoken ex-Auburn University coach Doug Barfield used after a touchy loss: "I don't mean to criticize but...." But is there not a bit of a double standard here?

I am a tremendous admirer of Barry Windham and I have felt his skills have been badly missed in WCW the last year. Further, I believe anyone merits a second chance. I'm glad he's back. But this is also a guy who walked out on a big contract, left WCW as he was on the verge of winning the world belt and created a serious vacuum. Yet, he is welcomed back with what will surely be a major role. And in a week when another major personnel problem erupted, what kind of message does this send?

I am an equal admirer of the mike work of Chris Cruise and Terry Funk. Yet, no matter the reason, both were wrong to abandon a TV taping (see page 1) hours before air. It is a cardinal violation of broadcast professionalism. And I'm about to return to a field where I'd have to hand out disciplinary action for a similar act.

But in a company where wrestlers have repeatedly no-shown dates and rarely are fired and where past problem performers are apparently forgiven, could Cruise and Funk not have been handed suspensions, even as long as 60-90 days, with a mandate of firing if they ever repeated the act, rather than outright dismissals? I wonder.

Or is there one set of rules for the wrestlers and another set of rules for the announcers in WCW???

MATWATCH HOTLINE
(205) 826-RING

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWER-SLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale.

(CNWA) - J.T. Stringer d. Brett Como; Mike Losanski d. Steve Gillespie; Jason Anderson d. Diamond Timothy Flowers by DQ when Flowers repeatedly piledrives Jason; Akam Singh/Great Gama d. Duke Myers/Goldie Rogers by DQ; Ron Ritchie d. Lenny St. Clair; ANGLE: Bulldog Bob Brown slaps Ritchie, then runs Ron into pillar. BOMB-PLUS.

(PORTLAND) - Juicers d. Moondog Moretti/Scotty the Body; Rip & Larry Oliver d. Al Madril/Equalizer; Billy Jack Haynes d. Brian Adams by DQ when Moretti unlocks handcuffs attaching Oliver to Grappler; Bill Francis vs. Ricky Santana no contest when Grappler runs in & demands to see Haynes/Oliver. Guards toss out Grap but he returns w. Adams/ Equalizer, so Don Owen fines all $500 each; Curtis Thompson vs. Grappler ends in melee; ANGLE: New valet Tailor-Made Medina comes onto Don Coss in show open, opens her coat and flashes Coss; FIESTA GARDEN: Tailor-Made unbuttons Larry Oliver's shirt, gives him kiss, then drops her coat on him & begins flexing. Scotty comes out and says he wants her. POWERSLAM-PLUS.

(CHICAGO CHAMPIONSHIP) - [MIDWEST VS. U.S. TITLE]: Terry Scholl double DQ vs. Rocky Brewer; Robert L. Means d. Randy Ritchie w. help from brother Leonard; Tony DeVito d. Woody Gripper. BOMB!!!

(LPWA) - [Key Match]: DeGata d. Medusa Miceli on controversial call by referee Eddie Sharkey. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(WINDY CITY) - Col. DeBeers d. Rambo Robinson; Frank (Tank) Nelson d. The Thrasher; Turbo d. Capt. Fantastic. BOMB.

(USWA) - Terrence Garvin d. Chico Torres; Bill Dundee d. Iceman Parsons by DQ when Garvin runs in & whips Bill before faces save; VALET MATCH: Kevin Von Erich d. John Tatum to win services of Tessa; Jeff Jarrett attacked by Jeff Gaylord & piledriven on floor for stretcher job so Dundee-Jerry Lawler start impromptu match, which will be concluded next week. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - Super Raton/Octagon/Asai d. Panico/El Simbolo/Canelo Casas 2-3 falls; Fray Tormenta/Ringo Mendoza/ Super Muneco d. MSI/Espectro Jr./Hombre Bala; Gran Hamada/ Satanico/El Dandy d. Emiliio Charles/Pirata Morgan/Angel Blanco Jr. 2-3; Solomon Grundy/Chavo Guererro/Popitekus d. El Brazo/Brazo de Oro/Brazo de Plata. DRAW-PLUS.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WORLD WIDE]: Midnight Express d. Chris & Mark Youngblood when Cornette uses racket; FUNK'S GRILL: Teddy Long & Mark Callous; Callous d. Dennis Fowler; Tommy Rich d. Paul Drake; REMATCH: Road Warrior Hawk d. Butch Reed in match where partners/managers banned but Paul Ellering, Long each show up & toss respective men objects before Ron Simmons & Animal come down & pullapart occurs. DRAW.
[NWA PRO]: (6-MAN) Norman/Abdullah the Butcher/Mike Rotunda d. Pat Rose/Mark Kyle/Bob Cook; Cactus Jack/Kevin Sullivan d. Keith Hart/Tom Parker; ANGLE: DOOM jumps Hawk during interview, Steiners save; DOOM d. Zan Panzer/Rick Fargo; WORLD TAG TITLE: Steiners d. Verne's Wrecking Crew. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(PRO WRESTLING '90) - Dixie Mafia d. Allen Horne/Waters; INTERVIEW: John Michaels rechristened Bugman & Billy Black comes out to threaten John; Solid Gold d. Moose Mahoney; CLASSIC: Muhammad Ali d. Buddy Wolff (Ali-Inoki); INTL.: Chris Benoit d. Goldie Rogers. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

TV TEMPO

April 9-15

(CWA/SYND.) - SEGMENT: Ronald P. Gossett IV signs for match vs. Chris Champion & Eddie Marlin says he'll fire RPG if he doesn't wrestle; Champion d. Don Kelly; RECAP: Jarrett-Gaylord; Dirty White Boys d. Ken Raper/Bob Jordan; Jarrett d. Lou Winston; Mike Awesome d. Tim Dell; Sweet Daddy Falcone d. T.D. Steele; S. Rockers d. Rockin' Randy/Raper. BOMB-PLUS.

(ICW) - [TAG TOURNEY]: Ebony & Ivory d. Michaels/Fortune; Sheik Abdul al-Feid d. Joe Cruel; Wild Bunch d. Allen/Copeland; Roadblock d. J.T. Southern; Vic Steamboat/Tommy Angel d. Russians; Dynamic Duo d. Carolina Crushers. BOMB-PLUS.

(WWF/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Demolition d. Jim Duffy/Colontes; Dino Bravo d. Long; Bubba Bossman d. Conquistador; Curt Hennig d. Ulysses; Jake Roberts d. Champion; Warlord d. Ryder; Sheepwackers d. Al Perez/Bob Bradley. RESTHOLD.
[SUPERSTARS]: Ted DiBiase d. Mario Mancini; Jimmy Snuka d. Black Bart; (From WM6) Earthquake Tenta destroys Jim Duggan; Orient Express d. Mark Fear/Sonny Blaze; Brutus Beefcake d. Mike Williams; BRO. LUV: Brother welcomes Rhythm & Blues/ Jimmy Hart; ANGLE: Randy Savage attacks Dusty Rhodes before w. Sherri's purse, then Sherri destroys Sapphire. Randy pounds from top rope on Dusty twice, then as Randy tries to make Sapphire "kiss his feet," Dusty saves; Barbarian d. Mark Thomas. UPDATE: I-C tourney announced; SEGMENT: Ultimate Warrior runs out w. belt. DRAW-PLUS.

(USWA/KTVT) - [Key Match]: Kevin Von Erich defeats Terrence Garvin in 4:30 of a 5-minute match in which Garvin agrees to serve as Von Erich's valet-for-a-day. NO RATING OFFERED.

(PWF) - Dennis Knight d. Wild Thing; Steve Keirn d. Coconut Kid; Terminator d. Bodyguard Mark; Robert Fuller d. Joe Padiero; Lou Perez d. Hollywood Rob; Other winner: Jimmy Backlund. DOUBLE BOMB!!

(NWA/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Samoan Swat Team d. Rick Ryder/ Rose; WNN: Gordon Solie discusses Ultimate Warrior's title win & CAPITOL COMBAT matchups; Callous d. Rich; SEGMENT: Sting tells Ole Anderson in split-screen there's no way he'll retire; WORLD TAG TITLE: Steiners d. DOOM by DQ. DRAW.
[WCW]: Eddie Gilbert d. Punisher but Samu bashes Eddie w. chair after; Royal Family d. Bubba Rose/Mike Sampson; (From WWW) Butch Reed d. Hawk w. loaded glove; SEGMENT: Cornette makes T. Long honorary Ky. Colonel so Teddy makes Jim honorary Black Muslim; Sullivan/Cactus d. Idol/Ryder; Tommy Rich d. Joel Deaton but Joel hangs Rich w. whip; Tom Zenk d. Stan Lane by DQ when Eaton breaks up sleeper but Zenk gets Corny's racket & cleans house; LOUISVILLE SLUGGER: Flair & Ole attack Luger but Lex rallies to bash both until Arn Anderson runs in & Horsemen leave Lex laying until Rotunda & Gilbert save; Rock & Roll Express d. Freebirds 2-3 falls but 'Birds choke R&R w. belts & DDT them after; FINALE: Sting brings out Robocop in filmed segment. DRAW-PLUS.
[MAIN EVENT]: [Key Match] U.S. TAG TEAM TITLE: Brian Pillman/Zenk d. Wrecking Crew; Eddie Gilbert d. Samu. DRAW.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Tailor-Made Medina, PORTLAND, before to Don Coss before flashing him: "You've been around. You've seen a lot of things. But you've NEVER seen anything like this." 2. Jim Cornette, NWA, on Pillman/Zenk: "You're an insignificant zit on the hindsight of life." 3. Jesse Ventura & Vince McMahon, WWF: (VMc) "If I worked for the Million $ Man, I wouldn't smile." (JV) "Sure you would, McMahon. You'd have a pay-raise." 4. Ventura, WWF: "To be a bodyguard, you have to have the size for it. That rules you out, McMahon." 5. Teddy Long, WCW: "It's all right to bounce a basketball but it's not all right to bounce a bad check." 6. Jim Ross, WCW, to Cornette: "I hear Dennis Brent wanted to use you as a centerfold but he didn't have enough pages to handle all the material." 7. Frank Sisson, CNWA, on Diamond Timothy Flowers: "It's spring and we should bring out the Flowers." 8. Vince & Jesse, WWF: (V) "Dusty Rhodes is beside himself." (J) "I can believe that." 9. Bobby Heenan, WWF, on Haku: "Call AAA. You won't move this man. One size fits all." 10. Cornette, WCW: "Norman stinks so bad, he's got flies following him around."

11. Samuel F. Kent, WVEU: "They interviewed Mary Tyler Moore at WRESTLEMANIA. They wanted to interview me. I said I didn't have time." 12. Jonathan Holliday, PORTLAND, on Art Barr tossing father around: "It's hard to raise parents these days." 13. J.C. Carson, SOUTHEASTERN: "Since this show is live, if I mess up, I can't do nothing about it." 14. Cornette, WCW: "Lexington TN is a lot closer to PARTS UNKNOWN than PARTS UNKNOWN." 15. Don Curtis, GREG LARSON ON SPORTS, on WWF: "In the days of ancient Rome, they used to fire snakes in the air when people lost interest. Eventually, it went down the tubes." 16. Corny, WCW: "Jim, I've seen you ogle Missy Hyatt on the MAIN EVENT. Your eyes are as big around as pie plates."

BEST PICTURES - 1. PORTLAND, Tailor-Made flashing Coss. CNWA, Joe Aiolla catches Bulldog Brown trying to sneak out side door. 2. PORTLAND, Art Barr accidentally tosses father Sandy across ring. 3. USWA, Jarrett piledriven on floor by Gaylord. 4. USWA, John Tatum crying over loss of Tessa. 5. WWF, SUPERSTARS Savage-Rhodes-Sapphire-Sherri angle. 6. WCW, Cactus Crash on Ryder. 7. WCW, Corny in Samoan headgear. 8. WVEU, Kent's face inserted in George Washington's picture.

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. CRYIN' BRIAN & TOM STINK (Cornette on Pillman/Zenk). 2. PINK & BLACK ATTACK (Hart Foundation on themselves). 3. KAREEM MUHAMMAD CORNETTE (Teddy Long's Muslim name for Corny---would Ray Candy approve?)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK - 1. Carson, SOUTHEASTERN: "Have you ever been scratched by a bone?" 2. Lex Luger, WCW, to Corny: "Do you have insurance? If you open your trap one more time, you're gonna need a helluva lot of insurance." 3. Cornette, WCW: "Do you realize Dennis Brent tried to charge me full price for a WRESTLING WRAPUP subscription?"

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Cornette, WCW: "Sting should have retired when the Horsemen got him instead of walking around here like Long John Silver. One-legged wrestlers!!!"

ENGLISH LESSONS - 1. Carson, SOUTHEASTERN: "I KNOWED he was gonna be a tough one." 2. Carson: "A challenge has DONE BEEN DONE issued." 3. Carson: "His leg was BROKE." 4. Kent, WVEU: "Boni, with you, what Sapphire does is fine. What other people DOES is not fine."

BLOOPER AWARDS - 1. Gordon Solie, PH: "JOHNNY Rich is really taking the action to him." 2. Tim Dix, PW '90: "Al K-NITTI." 3. Ross, WCW: "Jim Ross & Jim GARVIN with you."

BOO AWARDS - 1. WWF, for end of Savage/Sherri vs. Dusty/Sapphire angle. Okay, guys. I don't care how much of a heel Sherri is supposed to be, there was no excuse in having Dusty slug her. 2. USWA, for Tatum-Kevin angle. I'm tired of the sexism of men fighting for the "services" of a woman.

TUBE TALK

Ric Flair denied the WWF signing talk on GEORGE MICHAEL SPORTS MACHINE on NBC April 8....Kimberly Murphy back on THE LARRY KATZ SHOW in Balto after inner ear infection....We'll do the TV wrestling theme song review next week, barring major news....Former NWA world tag co-champ Don Curtis on GREG LARSON ON SPORTS on WPDQ in Jacksonville last week. ....Dustin Rhodes signed to return to WCW....Good moments on 3-hour WCW marathon but 3 hours is as much too long on a weekly show as 4 hours is of WRESTLEMANIA.

Ray Whebbe has a new weekly called BUMP! Order from 6964 W. 84th St., MINNEAPOLIS MN 55438 but I don't know the price....I know it's wrestling but during the SUPERSTARS angle, Sherri never once slugged Dusty, then he creams her in the save spot. Let's not go through this again....NWA in early talks to get Muta and Big Van Vader in for year-end appearances, possibly at STARRCADE.

Around 25 at Chris Love's Greensboro fan/promoter event. Lou Thesz & Buddy Rogers lauded Joe Pedicino's PW'90 pitch. Tim Horner & Hector Guerrerro told Joe they're trying to run Knoxville & want to affiliate....Tully Blanchard probably won't work any more AWA TV. Problems with Verne....I am sending postal cards to 12 of you whose annuals we cannot account for. Please return the card to me (postage is included) this week and we'll deliver promptly. FSB.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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PAULWATCH: As of week's end, Mr. Heyman had still not been signed to an NWA contract. Several insiders keep insisting to me Dangerously will be back as an announcer but the longer this thing drags, the more I wonder.

UPDATED CAPITOL COMBAT: Flair-Luger is definitely in a cage but with a ref other than Terry Funk; Steiners still against DOOM for the world tag title; Road Warriors/Norman still vs. Sullivan/Cactus/Bigelow; Zenk/Pillman vs. M Ex for U.S. belts; Arn Anderson vs. Eddie Gilbert for the NWA TV title; Barry Windham vs. Shane Douglas and Rock & Roll vs. Freebirds plus one other.

THE TITAN???: Atlanta fans were told on WVEU Saturday that Luger would meet the Titan in the Omni main event in May. But Titan was supposed to be Haystacks, the English blimp who reportedly is already gone. The April 8 Omni show only drew 2,700.

NEW CHAMPS: Robert Fuller & Kendall Windham won the Florida tag titles from Hurricane Walker (subbing for no-show Jerry Saggs) and Brian Knobbs last Thursday in Tampa. I guess this means Kendall is free to wrestle until his case is closed on the counterfeiting charges.

NEW CALGARY: Word continues to surface that the revived Calgary Stampede promotion is trying to gain new TV time but we're told it probably will not be on TSN.

BAD WEEK FOR TERRY: Not only did Funk fall out with the NWA last week, a showing of his PARADISE ALLEY flick on TBS scored a weak 1.2 rating and 4.3 share (650,000 homes). TBS' afternoon movies usually average a 6 share.

FEUD & SONYA: I have no earthly idea how Funk's departure affects the FAMILY FEUD and SONYA LIVE! appearances at the end of the month. One wag suggested they could always use Norman. The FEUD taping in L.A. is next Friday.

VINCE'S SUN: John Lanigan provided us with a copy of Steve Simmons' TORONTO SUN profile of Vince McMahon. Lots of stuff about Vince's use of TV & how Vince is a recluse.

OTHER VOICES: But the same SUN article featured the long-aired criticisms from Verne Gagne: "One day, he's not going to have anyone to steal wrestlers from; there won't be any wrestlers left and he hasn't developed any of his own." A better quote from Red Bastein: "If I step on McMahon's toes, he'll step on my neck."

BYE, BYE SOUTHEASTERN: I was really hoping it would last longer. But the Chattanooga-based SOUTHEASTERN promotion has bitten the dust. I just saw the last 3 shows of this group and it was, without doubt, WRESTLING'S FUNNIEST HOME VIDEOS.

MORE S.E.: Some funny notes on this group's demise: our friend David Williamson journeyed to WFLI for the live April 7 show. He found about 20 fans in the parking lot, host J.C. Carson and about four wrestlers. Pretty soon, 2:00 (air time) came with no ring and no other grapplers. And lots of angry words toward booker Chance Myers who wasn't there.

MATWATCHING

WHOSE SPONSORS?: Among gripes toward Southeastern are 3 sponsors which paid for spots on the show and allegedly did not get any commercial time. Joe Pedicino is lobbying to get on WFLI with PRO WRESTLING '90 but may have a hard-sell. WFLI is not enthralled with the sport after this fiasco.

LABELING: Whether to change the name of the NWA is still being discussed with TBS corporate lawyers. Some critical legal questions remain over the name's use.

MEADOWLANDS MANIA: Well, I don't know if it's mania. But advance sales for next Thursday night's show have crossed the $110,000 mark. If it does as well as early indications, WCW will probably be given a second Meadowlands date.

THE TITLE: Far be it from me to guess on this one, lest I'm accused of another giveaway, but the debate continues on whether Lex Luger will win the NWA belt from Ric Flair. Sting is telling the promotion he'll be able to go by July (which I'm told by independent doctors is a real rush job with that kind of injury) and Flair just may hold it for the eventual big pop from Sting.

RELEARNING THE ROPES: Less than a year after his abortive LEARNING THE ROPES series ended, 41-year-old Lyle Alzado has signed a contract with the Los Angeles (or is it Oakland?) Raiders as a player-assistant coach.

PRODDING THE CATTLE: Expect to see an upcoming ELECTRIC ROD MATCH for Pedicino's PW'90. Thunder & Lightning will meet Georgia Power in the match with all four guys tied to each other and one man has to touch all four ringposts in order for his team to win. The losers get a jab with an electric cattle prod. I'm told one of those things loses its charge after three jabs, so I hope it gets three tests before the losers' punishment.

WEEKEND WARRIORS: Pedicino is shooting for three holiday shows at Lake Alatoona in north Georgia, including one with a battle royal over water. Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day will see the PW'90 guys hit town.

I-C TOURNEY: Jack Tunney announced on-air the Intercontinental tourney. Lots of speculation is Dusty will get it but I think he's headed to become the King. I think it will go to a heel and it wouldn't surprise me if it's Curt Hennig.

AUSTRALIAN WOES: Channel 10 in Australia, which had aired WWF SUPERSTARS Tuesdays at 12 midnight, has dropped the show. Reportedly, a three-year-old episode of WRESTLING CHALLENGE, featuring Can-Am Connection and George Steele, aired instead.

UPDATE: Contrary to our earlier information, Titan Sports did not block GEORGE MICHAEL SPORTS MACHINE from using stills from WM6 but the GMSM folks put it this way: "TV's action footage, not still pictures." My bet is they were hedging to boost vidcassette sales.

AWA/ESPN: According to ORBIT magazine schedules, the AWA does not have another date on ESPN for the rest of the month. But that has always changed on short notice. Lord Humongous was plugged for AWA's TV tapings Saturday. Was it Sid???

RATINGS RAP

MAIN EVENT RETURNS TO TOP;

WWF SHOWS POST-WM BLUES

Though still dominant in syndication, the two WWF cable series suffered marked rating drops in last week's Nielsen figures.

ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING, which topped the numbers last week, dropped a full point to 2.3, one of its lowest showings of the season. The plunge was a 30% decline over last week's season high on WRESTLEMANIA VI day.

PRIME TIME WRESTLING, which last year, scooted to strong levels after WM5, dipped back to a 2.7, down 13% over last week's 3.1.

NWA MAIN EVENT, a lackluster show in itself last week, poled to the top of the ratings with a 3.3 and 6.7 share, up 32% from the previous Sunday's 2.5 opposite WM6.

NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP, which has leveled off the last three weeks under a 3 rating, finished with a 2.8/6.2. Interesting will be how the three-hour edition of last Saturday will fare. The last time TBS tried three straight hours of wrestling on Saturdays, it posted a 2.3 average.

On the other hand, POWER HOUR continued a watchful decline, falling to a 1.8 and under a million homes. The Friday night TBS series has been under a 2.0 three times in five weeks.

In syndication, the WWF pulled nearly three points higher than the NWA, 9.9 to 7.0. Those numbers were for two weekends prior to WRESTLEMANIA, so expect the next two weeks to probably post a 10 or better.

CABLE

Week Ending April 9	Rating	Share	Total Homes
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 4/8)	3.3	6.7	1.78 million
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 4/7)	2.8	6.2	1.51 million
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 4/9)	2.7	4.3	1.41 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 4/8)	2.3	6.7	1.20 million
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 4/6)	1.8	3.2	972,000
NWA POWER HOUR (R) (TBS 4/7)	0.9	7.6	486,000

SYNDICATION

Week Ending Mar. 19	Rating/Sta.	Last Week	Year to Date
WWF	9.9/242	9.1/245	9.7
NWA	7.0/173	6.7/173	7.6

MATWATCH SHOPPERS NETWORK

PILEDRIVER, the best wrestling publication in Australia is worth your while for a purchase. Lazarus Dobelsky is the editor and it's an interesting perspective on American wrestling, along with what ring action still goes on Down Under. It is $5 an issue for American and Canadian readers. Send your order to: PILEDRIVER, P.O. Box 34, Glenhuntly, Victoria, AUSTRALIA 3163. I highly recommend it!

STEVE GENNARELLI, 69 Kendall Ave., Binghamton NY 13903, is selling wrestling magazines from the early '70s to the present. Write Steve for a free list.

CLAUDE SICARD, 40 Landry #411, Vanier, Ontario, CANADA KIL 8K4, is interested in any old tapes or films from the '50s and '60s, particularly of Killer Kowalski, Eduardo Carpentier, Don Leo Jonathan, the Rougeaus, Bulldog Brower and Johnny Valentine.

CLIFF ALIPERTI, 49 W. 22nd St., Huntington Station NY 11746, wants to buy VHS tapes of WWF TV and MSG shows from 1978-84 and GA. (WORLD) CHAMPIONSHIP TBS shows from 1980-84.

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NOTE TO ALL NEWSLETTER EDITOR/PUBLISHERS & RADIO SHOW HOSTS: I want to do a complete listing of ALL bulletins on the market during a May issue. A number of new ones are out there, so please help me. Send me your current publication schedule (weekly, biweekly, monthly, i.e.), prices and a short 1 or 2 paragraphs on what's in it. Radio show hosts, send me a couple of paragraphs on your air time, your show regulars and formats, along with station & coverage area.

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